

REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

Claims 1 and 3-5 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 6-16 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2. No new matter has been raised by the above claim amendments.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submit that Japanese Abstracts 10-070121 and 2531906 cited on the PTO form 1449 were submitted on July 8, 2002 and were marked by yellow highlights. Applicants resubmit a courtesy copy of the PTO form 1449 and the abstracts clearly marked again with yellow highlight. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner initial the PTO form 1449 indicating that the abstracts have been properly considered by the Examiner.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(b)

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 3-5 as anticipated by Kowalczyk et al. USP 5,128,422 or Mitsubishi PertoChem Co. Ltd. JP 57-195122. Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, which is free of this art rejection. Therefore, claim 1 and all claims that depend either directly or indirectly therefrom

are also free of this rejection. As such, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

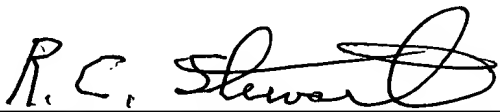
As Applicants have addressed and overcome all rejections in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

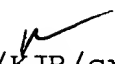
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Raymond C. Stewart, #21,066


RCS/KJR/crt
2185-0531P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s): Abstract of JP 10-070121
Abstract of JP 2531906
Copy of PTO Form 1449